

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ADP-00 SSO-00 H-01 PPTE-00 PRS-01 /009 W

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O 051559Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6825

UNCLAS OSLO 2455

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CDES NO (WILKINS, DONALD BRUCE)

SUBJECT: REPORTED DEATH OF WILKINS

REF: STATE 130309, OSLO 2430

1. M/S VICTORIA IS NOW CALLING AT PORTS IN WESTERN NORWAY ON WAY TO OSLO, WHERE IT IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE ON MONDAY, JULY 9, AT 3 P.M. EMBASSY'S ATTEMPTS TO REACH CAPTAIN ROSSA BY RADIO TELEPHONE HAVE NOT RPT NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL.

2. ACCORDING TO RECORD ON THE VESSEL DONALD BRUCE WILKINS, ASSISTANT CRUISE DIRECTOR, WAS BORN NOVEMBER 19, 1952, AND WAS THE BEARER OF U.S. PASSPORT A1306162 ISSUED OCTOBER 6, 1970. EMBASSY IS ATTEMPTING TO CONFIRM THAT INFORMATION.

3. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION PRESENTLY AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY, WILKINS FELL OVERBOARD AT 1:30 A.M. JULY 2 WHILE VESSEL WAS ON HIGH SEAS NORTHWEST OF SENJA, A LARGE ISLAND ON NORWEGIAN COAST BETWEEN TROMSOE AND BODOE. TROMSOE AND BODOE POLICE STATE THAT CAPTAIN ROSSA DID NOT RPT NOT MAKE A REPORT TO THEM. BODOE RESCUE STATION (REDNINGSSENTRALEN) RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM HARSTAD RADIO AT 2:23 A.M. THAT M/S VICTORIA HAD MAN OVERBOARD AT 1:40 A.M. ALL SHIPS IN AREA NOTIFIED. RESCUE HELICOPTER WAS SENT FROM BODOE. ANOTHER SHIP IN AREA, THE KING STAR, PARTICIPATED IN SEARCH TOGETHER WITH THE VICTORIA.

4. EMBASSY INTENDS TO ASK CAPTAIN ROSSA IF HE HAS RE-
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QUESTED OFFICIAL INQUIRY PROCEEDINGS IN OSLO. EMBASSY

IS AT THE PRESENT TIME UNABLE TO CONFIRM REPORT FROM
TROMSOE POLICE AND THE BODOE RESCUE CENTER THAT SUCH PRO-
CEEDINGS WOULD BE HELD. NORWEGIAN LAW PROVIDES FOR SUCH
AN INQUIRY IN THE CASE OF FOREIGN VESSELS ONLY IF IT IS
REQUESTED BY THE OWNER, CAPTAIN, OR OFFICIAL OF THE
COUNTRY OF REGISTRY.

5. EMBASSY WILL APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE CONCERNING
ISSUANCE OF PRESUMPTIVE REPORT OF DEATH AND DISPOSITION
OF WILKINS' EFFECTS ON BOARD VESSEL. BUCHANAN

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